REMARKS

In the above referenced case, claims 233-235, 239-249, 253-263, 267-277, and 281-288 are pending. Applicant will sequentially address the issues raised by the Examiner.

I. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 233-234, 236-248, 250-262, 264-276 and 278-288 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Atarashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,172,254 ("<u>ATARASHI</u>") in view of Baur et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,115,305 ("<u>BAUR</u>").

A. <u>Independent Claims 233, 247, 261, and 275</u>

Independent claims 233, 247, 261, and 275 have been amended to add additional elements [h] and [i] which are not disclosed or suggested in ATARASHI and/or BAUR.

These additional elements are supported by at least Figures 20A and 20B and the corresponding text in the original Specification.¹

Based on the foregoing, all pending claims should now be in condition for allowance.

Of course, the embodiments illustrated in the Figures and/or described in the Specification are merely exemplary. Therefore, the scopes of the claims should not be construed to cover only the exemplary embodiments illustrated and/or described.

II. <u>Conclusion</u>

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would help advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

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